

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 SCI-02 EB-04 NSF-01 AID-05 NAS-01

HEW-02 COME-00 TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-01 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15

USIA-06 COA-01 DLOS-03 INT-05 AGR-05 SWF-01 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2885

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 6869

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, EC

SUBJ: WORKING GROUP ON SCIENCE AND TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY

REF: A. STATE 206675; B. QUITO 5601

1. KEY GOE OFFICIALS PARTICIPATING IN DIALOGUE REMAIN THE SAME AS STATED IN QUITO 5601. ALTHOUGH QUITO IS INFO ADDRESSEE ON REFTEL A, EMBOFFS TOOK ADVANTAGE OF CALLS ON ANGEL MATOVELLE, CHIEF OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SECTION IN THE PLANNING BOARD, AND JAIME VELASQUEZ, ACTING RECTOR OF THE ESCUELA POLITECNICA NACIONAL, TO RAISE SEVERAL OF THE QUESTIONS IN REF AA. MATOVELLE WAS THE GOE'S REPRESENTATIVE DURING THE JUNE 24-28 MEETING OF THE WORKING GROUP IN BRASILIA.

2. THERE IS LITTLE INTERNAL COORDINATION INVOLVED WITH THE GOE'S TT REPRESENTATION. MATOVELLE APPEARS TO CARRY THW WHOLE SHOW. MANY OF HIS RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS FROM REFTEL A WERE PREFACED WITH A DISCLAIMER THAT THE ANSWER REPRESENTED HIS PERSONAL OPINION, NOT OFFICIAL GOE POLICY. IF FORMAL POLICY EVEN EXISTS AT THIS TIME, IT
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MAY BE ASSUMED IT WILL BE SIMILAR TO MATOVELLE'S THINKING.

3. MATOVELLE SAID THAT THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THE TT EFFORT IS STRONGLY DEPENDENT ON THE ABILITY OF THE LA'S TO AGREE AMONG THEMSELVES (NOT YET EVIDENT) AND ON U.S. ATTITUDES AND ACTIONS. HE OBSERVED THAT THERE CAN BE NO SIGNIFICANT RESULTS IF USG ATTITUDES ARE SUCH AS TO MAKE A DIALOGUE DIFFICULT AND ADDED THAT HE IS PLEASED WITH THE OPENNESS SHOWN BY U.S. SO FAR. MATOVELLE SAID HE COULD NOT FORECAST THE FINAL SIGNIFICANT OUTCOMES OF THE DIALOGUE. IT MAY BE ASSUMED HOWEVER THAT USG ATTITUDES WHICH TEND TO SUPPORT GOE PRIORITY INTERESTS WOULD FALL INTO THE ABOVE CATEGORY.

4. GOE PRIORITY INTEREST, AS THEY ARE DEFINED AT THIS TIME REVOLVE ABOUT THE CONCEPT THAT THE ONLY REALLY SIGNIFICANT TT PROGRAM BENEFICIAL TO ECUADOR WOULD BE ONE WHICH; A) WAS RELATIVELY INEXPENSIVE, B) UTILIZED NATURAL RESOURCES NOW AVAILABLE IN ECUADOR, AND C) WOULD TEND TO HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE MAJORITY OF THE POPULATION OF THE COUNTRY AND NOT ONLY ON THE UPPER-CLASSES. MATOVELLE POINTED OUT BANANA AND PAPER TECHNOLOGIES AS USEFUL EXAMPLES OF AREAS MOST CLOSELY FITTING THE ABOVE GUIDELINES. HE MENTIONED THAT A SIGNIFICANT PERCENTAGE OF THE BANANA CROP MUST BE THROWN AWAY (DUE TO COSMETIC CONSIDERATIONS) THEREBY WASTING A CRUCIAL NATURAL RESOURCE. A TECHNOLOGY WHICH COULD UTILIZE THIS WASTE WOULD BE ONE IN WHICH THE GOE WOULD BE VERY INTERESTED. MATOVELLE, CONTINUING ON SAME THEME, STATED THAT UNFORTUNATELY THE TECHNOLOGY WHICH IS TRANSFERRED TO COUNTRIES LIKE ECUADOR BY THE LARGE MULTINATIONALS DOES NOT RPT NOT GENERALLY-SPEAKING FULFILL THE CRITERIA ABOVE STATED.

5. IT WAS LEARNED THAT THERE ARE CURRENT PLANS TO UPGRADE THE FUNCTION OF MATOVELLE'S OFFICE IN TERMS OF BOTH FUNDING AND ORGANIZATIONAL CLOUT. THE JUNTA DE PLANIFICACION WOULD DECIDE THE AS YET UNSPECIFIED BUDGET INCREASE, UPGRADING OF THE S/T AREA MAY TAKE THE FORM OF CREATING A NEW ORGANIZATIONAL UNIT TO BE CALLED THE SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY SECRETARIAT.

6. LOCAL INDUSTRIAL LEADERS HAVE NOT BEEN CONSULTED
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YET ON TT. THERE ARE HOWEVER INTENTIONS TO DO THIS IN THE FUTURE.

7. MATOVELLE, IN RESPONSE TO THE QUESTION ON FOLLOW-ON MECHANISMS FELT THAT BOTH THE OAS AND THE ANDEAN GROUP WOULD PLAY ROLES. HE STATED THAT THE OAS MUST "REINVIGORATE" ITS INEFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION IN ORDER TO PLAY A PRODUCTIVE PART IN TT; THE OAS MIGHT HAVE A ROLE IN FINANCING THE

FOLLOW-ON.

8. MATOVELLE IMPLIED THAT REPRESENTATION BY NON-SCIENTIFICALLY-ORIENTED PERSONS ON THW WORKING GROUP AND SUB-GROUPS IS A HINDRANCE IN MEETINGS ON TT. FOR EXAMPLE, AT THE BRASILIA MEETING HE COUNTED ON COLOMBIA TO PLAY A LEADING ROLE IN GUIDING THE ANDEAN GROUP. HOWEVER, COLOMBIA WAS REPRESENTED BY A DIPLOMAT (I.E., GENERALIST) AND HE COULD NOT GIVE THE LEAD THAT MATOVELLE AS ECUADOREAN DELEGATE EXPECTED. SIMILARLY, MATOVELLE APOLOGIZED THAT FOR LACK OF A TRAVEL FUND AUTHORIZATION ECUADOR WAS REPRESENTED AT THE GUATEMALA SUB-GROUP BY AN EMBASSY OFFICER RATHER THAN SOMEONE FROM HIS OFFICE.

9. IN SEPARATE MEETING JAIME VELASQUEZ, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR AND ACTING RECTOR OF THE ESCUELA POLITECNICA NACIONAL STATED IN GREATER DETAIL AREAS MOST IMPORTANT TO ECUADOR IN TERMS OF NEEDED TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. VELASQUEZ STATED THAT PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF A STUDY UNDERTAKEN CONCURRENTLY BY THE JUNTA DE PLANIFICACION AND THE ESCUELA POLITECNICA NACIONAL INDICATES THE FOLLOWING AREAS TO BE OF PRIORITY IMPORTANCE FOR INVESTIGATORY EFFORT: PLANT, GENETICS; FOOD TECHNOLOGY; SCIENCES OF THE SEA; METALMECHANICS; PETRO CHEMISTRY AND TECHNOLOGY INVOLVING EARTHQUAKE-PROOFING. VELASQUEZ INDICATED THAT THE ABOVE IS A PRELIMINARY LIST AND WILL BE ENLARGED AND MADE MORE SPECIFIC AS THE CURRENT STUDY PROCEEDS. HE STATED THAT THE STUDY SHOULD BE COMPLETED IN APPROXIMATELY ONE YEAR AT WHICH TIME IT WILL BE PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT AS PROPOSED BASIC GUIDANCE FOR ECUADOR'S SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNOLOGICAL RESEARCH PROGRAMS.

10. COMMENT: IN COMPARISON WITH THE JUNTA DE PLANIFICACION, THE ESCUELA POLITECNICA NACIONAL APPEARS TO BE THE MORE DYNAMIC ORGANIZATION AND EFFECTIVE VEHICLE FOR CHANNELING ACTUAL TT PROGRAMS IN THE RIGHT DIRECTIONS. FOR EXAMPLE, CONFIDENTIAL

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VELASQUEZ MENTIONED THAT THE SCHOOL IS ALREADY COORDINATING ITS STUDIES WITH THE BUSINESS COMMUNITY AND CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY - AN ACTIVITY WHICH THE JUNTA DE PLANIFICACION HAS YET TO ACCOMPLISH. THE JUNTA WILL CONTINUE TO HAVE THE LEAD IN REPRESENTING ECUADOR IN THE DIALOGUE, HOWEVER. BREWSTER

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